

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 00776 191615Z

61

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 MC-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-05 (ISO) W

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R 191512Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 283

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 0776

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: SALE TO SWITZERLAND OF F-5E/E/F AIRCRAFT

1. AIR ATTACHE HAS INFORMED DOD OF DESIRE CHARLES GROSSENBACHER, CHIEF SWISS ARMAMENTS AGENCY (GRD), CALL ON DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENTS DURING MARCH 17-18 VISIT WASHINGTON. GROSSENBACHER WILL ALSO BE VISITING NORTHRUP AND GE WHILE IN U.S. WASHINGTON SCHEDULE BEING ARRANGED BY SWISS EMBASSY WHICH MAY ALSO SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH OTHERS BESIDES CLEMENTS.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT ONE OF MAIN REASONS FOR GROSSENBACHER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AT THIS TIME IS EFFORT BE ABLE ASSURE FEDERAL COUNCIL AND AT LATER DATE PARLIAMENT THAT BEFORE MAKING MAJOR ARMS PURCHASE DECISION SWISS HAVE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED ALL POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STRUCTURE PURCHASE IN MANNER THAT WOULD ALSO BRING BENEFITS TO SWISS INDUSTRY AND ECONOMY. WE BELIEVE SWISS OFFICIALS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ANY KIND OF CO-PRODUCTION/OR INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPATION WOULD SO RAISE AIRCRAFT PURCHASE COSTS AS TO MAKE NO SENSE. WE WILL BE ABLE TO CHECK OUR UNDERSTANDING DURING MARCH 3 VISIT TO BERN OF LETTER OF OFFER TEAM.

3. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO HEAR RUMBLINGS THAT SOME BRANCHES SWISS INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT FEEL THERE SHOULD BE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERN 00776 191615Z

SOME SORT OF QUID FOR SWISS PURCHASE QUO. THUS POSSIBLE

CHEESE COUNTERVAILING DUTY ACTION IS OFTEN MENTIONED. ALSO OF INTEREST ON PART OF SOME IS TO SEEK UNDERTAKING ON PART OF USG AND/OR INDUSTRY TO INCREASE PROCUREMENT IN SWITZERLAND. WE HAVE TRIED DISCOURAGE SUCH REASONING AS NON-STARTER BUT IT POSSIBLE THAT GROSSENBACHER MAY RAISE THIS IDEA WITH CLEMENTS OR OTHERS WHILE IN WASHINGTON. WE HOPE HE CAN BE TOLD OF USG PROCUREMENT POLICIES WITH EMPHASIS ON OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED SWISS SUPPLIERS. WE HOPE HE COULD ALSO BE GIVEN SOME FIGURES ON PRESENT LEVEL OF DOD PURCHASING IN SWITZERLAND. CERTAINLY HE SHOULD BE TOLD THAT ANY PRIVATE SECTOR PROCUREMENT IN SWITZERLAND IS MATTER BETWEEN PRIVATE PARTIES; SWISS ARE HIGHLY CAPABLE SALESMEN AIDED BY SWISS EMBASSY AND CONSULATES IN U.S.

4. WE CONTINUE TO THINK ULTIMATE DECISION RE F-5E WILL BE BASED ON BUDGETARY/COST CONSIDERATIONS AND WE STILL EXPECT THIS DECISION TO BE IN FAVOR OF F-5E.
DAVIS

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